

Appl. No. 09/766,616
Amdt. Dated January 6, 2004
Reply to Office action of October 8, 2003
Attorney Docket No. P13207-US2
EUS/J/P/04-1000

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 1, 13, 15 and 27, cancelled claims 11-12 and 25-26, and added claims 35-36. Accordingly, Claims 1-10, 13-24 and 27-36 are now pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to Claims 12, 14, 26 and 28 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. The Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 12 and intervening claim 11, and amended independent Claim 15 to include the limitations of claim 26 and intervening claim 25. Accordingly, claims 1 and 15 are now allowable. Furthermore, whereas claims 2-10 and 13-14 are dependent from claim 1, and claims 16-24 and 27-34 are dependent from claim 15, and include the limitations of their respective base claims, those claims are also now allowable.

The Applicant has also added claim 35, which includes the original limitations of claims 1 and 14, and claim 36, which includes the original limitations of claims 15 and 28; i.e., claims 35 and 36 are original claims 14 and 28 rewritten in independent form. Whereas the Examiner indicated that claims 14 and 28 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, claims 35 and 36 are allowable.

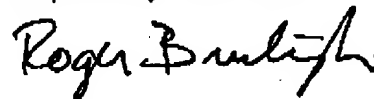
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and objections and issue a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-10, 13-24 and 27-36.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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